

Australian

DECEMBER 2011 – JANUARY 2012

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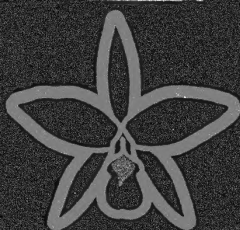
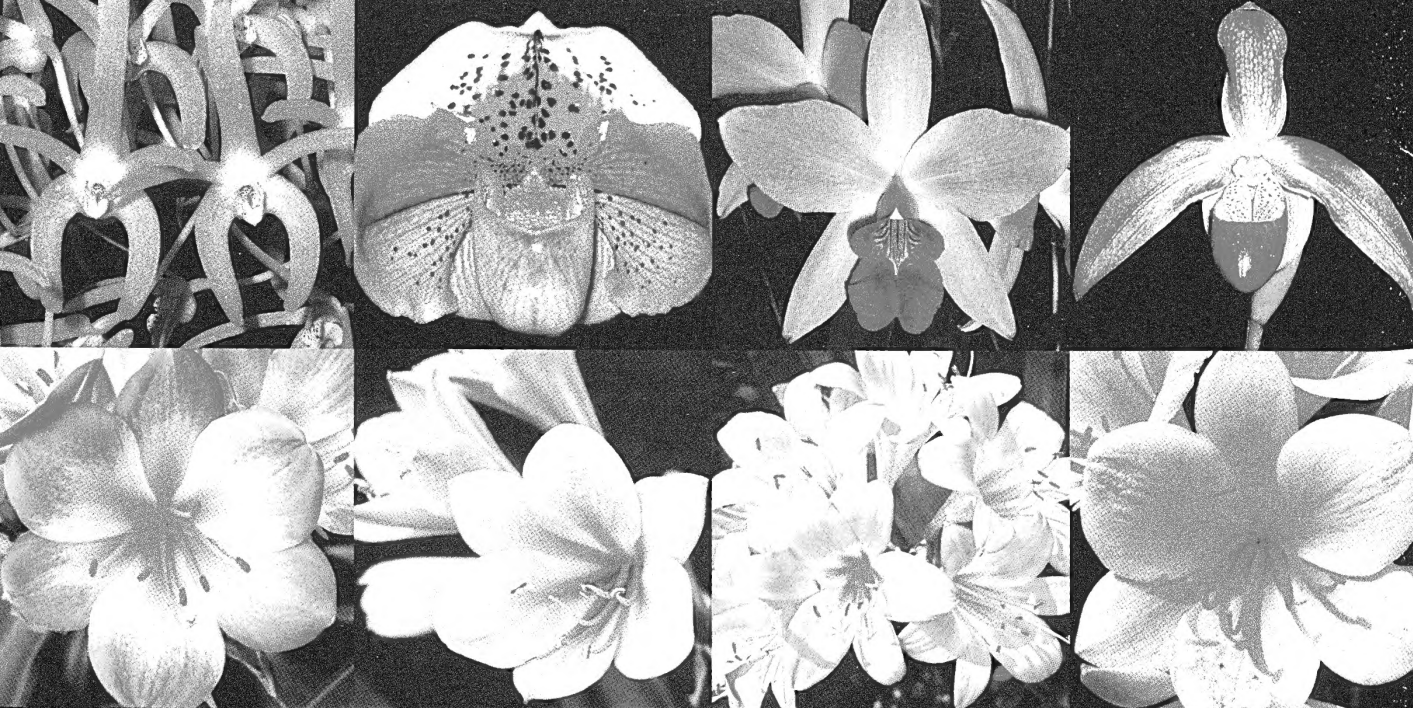
# Orchid

Review

VOLUME 76 – No. 6

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## From the Editor's Desk

**C**ymbidiums would be one of the most widely grown and popular orchids in Australia. The Cymbidium Club of Australia Inc. recently hosted their 2011 National Orchid Extravaganza at Dural Recreation Centre. This event has become a Mecca for hybrid *Cymbidium* enthusiasts from around the country and overseas. In this issue Peter Moore gives us a summary of this prestigious show.

The latest World Orchid Conference has come and gone. Congratulations to the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea who took out the Trophy for Best Large Display (100 square metres display) to become the World Champions! Singapore was the host this time, and the Grand Champion was a bit out of left field. This top award went to a superbly flowered example of the hybrid

*Cycnodes Taiwan Gold 'Orchis'* (see photo) that was registered in 2004 by Orchis Floricultural, Inc., of Taiwan as the cross of *Cyc. chlorochilon* x *Cycd. Jumbo Jewel* (*Morm. badia* X *Cyc. haagii*). Fred Clarke wrote an authoritative account of this group of orchids in the AOR

just over a year ago.

The 19th Australian Orchid Conference & Show is to be held in Perth, Western Australia from 11-16 September 2012. The popular Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids, California USA will be one of the international speakers at this conference. In this issue Fred shares his secrets and technique in deflasking members of the *Catasetinae*. This method would also be most applicable to many other orchid genera.

Ian St George is one of the most knowledgeable experts on the New Zealand orchid flora. Ian has written many books on his local orchids and has been editor of the *New Zealand Native Orchid Journal* for many years, doing a sterling job. Their very impressive website may be viewed at [www.nativeorchids.co.nz](http://www.nativeorchids.co.nz). In this issue Ian discusses some of his favourite orchids from the genus *Nematoceras*. Allegra Biggs Dale is a naturalist from Tasmania who recently published a small book on the *Orchids of Bruny Island*. In this issue Allegra discusses some of our southern-most orchids in her own unique and warm style.

Most people rarely think of orchids as being succulent plants... a tag often given to cacti and related plants. One of the country's leading authorities on succulent plants – Attila Kapitany discusses some of Australia's succulent orchids. Attila has recently published a series of books that may be purchased through his website [www.australiansucculents.com](http://www.australiansucculents.com)

We also have a couple of contributions from prominent orchidists from the USA. Bob Hamilton discusses a mystery *Odontoglossum* whilst Andy Easton showcases a couple of new novelty *Cymbidium* hybrids that are most eye-catching.

David Banks  
Australian Orchid Review  
[david@hillsdistrictorchids.com](mailto:david@hillsdistrictorchids.com)



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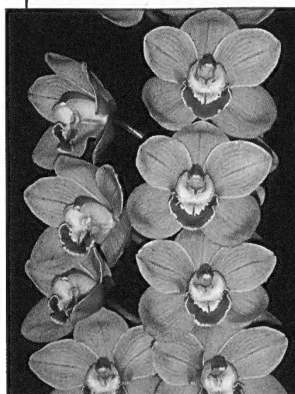
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### Cover Shot

Grand Champion at the recent 2011 National Orchid Extravaganza held at Dural was *Cymbidium Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'* grown by David Wain from Victoria.

Photo: David Banks

*Cym. Lancashire Khan*  
*'Debonair'*  
(D. Wain)





# 2011 National Orchid Extravaganza

Text by Peter Moore, photos by David Banks

It gives me great pleasure to report for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have had yet another very successful show. Our members of the Cymbidium Club of Australia have used this time of year when Cymbidiums are flowering at their finest, so it seems apparent to have a show that present these orchids whilst they are at their show best. So with this in mind we at the Cymbidium Club of Australia hosted the 2011 National Orchid Extravaganza at the Dural Recreation Centre from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The show again this year was up to

the extremely high level that we have become to expect from our club members. Whilst we were threatened with rain and gladly only some light rain fell on the Friday, we were once again lucky enough to enjoy clear weather to enjoy the show.

This show is becoming bigger and better every year and it is a testament to the member's hard work to ensure its ongoing success. It has become a "must see" event on the calendar and arguably one (if not the) largest *Cymbidium* show and display in Australasia.



**Cym. Warringah Winter  
'National Show'  
(N Ciccieri)**

Before I go any further I would like to thank Dr. Seong Tay our major sponsor again for his generous donation to the Club each year to ensure that the show meets all of its liabilities. It is his generosity that has ensured our continued success and a sincere 'Thank You' is required.

We stage this event at the Dural Recreation Centre, with the main arena used to play basketball. However, on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August our club members invaded the centre like ants and started setting up the show. With over 130 tables to erect this takes many hands and thankfully we had many members on hand to assist the show marshal in the set up. Under the watchful eye of show marshal, Keith Harris the task I believe (as I was at work and missed all the hard labour) was completed very quickly and this then gave the members who were on hand the opportunity to start putting their plants on display. I arrived there after work on the Wednesday evening (making sure all the hard labour was done) and was surprised to see what had already been benched. It is at this stage that I want to thank all those club members that assisted to get this enormous task completed efficiently.

When Thursday morning dawned there was a definite air of high excitement in the venue. There were many perfectly grown cymbidiums and miscellaneous orchid genera being brought in. The quality this year was exceptional and I was amazed. With the quality of the orchids benched it was obvious to all that the judges would have a huge task ahead of them to choose the champions.

**Cym. Golden Embers**  
**'Golden Tee Pee'**  
(B Janes)



During the next few hours with the benches filled and the table top displays and the show centre display completed, the judging was able to begin. Again, this year the judges lead by David Brooks had the job in front of them as the standard was the highest that I have seen in years. Judging is often a thankless task and a job that seems never to please everyone. As usual the judges did an exceptional job and there were no complaints with the major results.

After the events of the day, I actually took some time later in the evening to have a good look at the venue. With the

judging completed and the prize cards and prize ribbons/sashes having been placed the show was an absolute masterpiece. With cymbidiums displayed in every possible and practical way, this year's show eclipsed all of our other shows. The centrepiece was more simple in design but had more of a 'wow' factor which kept the visitors coming back to take in the spectacle. You can see this display from wherever you stand at the venue and it will catch your eye. With all duties done the show was ready for the public the next morning.

#### **Champions and Major Prize Winners**

This year's Grand Champion *Cymbidium* and Champion Standard was a well grown specimen of *Cym. Lancashire Khan 'Debonair'* grown by David Wain from Victoria. This outstanding hybrid was definitely a worthy winner. Reserve Champion and Champion Miniature was *Cym. Warringah Winter 'National Show'* beautifully grown by Nat & Rosa Ciccieri. Congratulations to both these owners of wonderfully grown and presented showbench specimens. Both were worthy winners.





**Above:**  
*Cym. Golden Embers*  
*'Golden Tee Pee'*  
(B Janes)

Champion Small Standard was *Cym. Golden Embers 'Golden Tee Pee'* and Champion Intermediate was *Cym. One Tree Hill 'Beenak'* both exhibited by Bryan Janes. The Champion Other Genera (and Champion Australian Native) was won by Peter Gibson with an impressive plant of *Dendrobium Avril's Gold 'Jamie'*. Champion *Cattleya* was won by Keith & Faye Harris with a well presented plant of *Laeliocattleya Orlades Grand 'Yu-Chang Beauty'*. Champion *Phalaenopsis* was won by Keith Wallace Pty Ltd with *Phalaenopsis* (Sogo Yukidian x Taisuco Day). Champion Miscellaneous Orchid was *Bardendrum Nanboh Pixy* exhibited and well grown by Norm and Val Shipway.

Congratulations must go to all exhibitors who brought in their plants and displayed them. It was a brilliant show and the feedback expressed by the public reflected the same sentiment.

**Below:**  
*Cym. Golden Embers*  
*'Alice'*  
(M & F Ferguson)



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**Cym. (Paradise x Poetic Fair)  
(C & K Gillespie)**



This year for the second year we had potting demonstration and orchid culture sessions. This was a great success last year and this led us to have all the sessions done by our commercial growers. It created a huge amount of interest and was then cemented as an important part of the whole event. With two sessions on Saturday and one session on Sunday all of these were well attended by the public. Lots of questions were asked and all were expertly answered.

Our sincere thanks must go to all these vendors who travelled many kilometres to be at our show. It is a great testament to you and we enjoy having all of you join us annually. I hope to see you all again next year.

On the Saturday night we had a dinner held at Bernhard's Kitchen, at one of the local restaurants. We occupied the whole restaurant which was brilliant. The meal was exceptional and everyone had a great evening. The restaurant holds 60 people and we filled every seat. This ensured that the guests

could mingle with others freely and not have to interfere with patrons that were not part of our event. The restaurant is Austrian based cuisine and well worth a visit when in Sydney.

There are so many people to thank but I must make a special mention of Sel Mumford and Bruce Mitchell. Both these guys gave, came and stayed at Dural for the five days and their assistance to Keith Harris and his team was tremendous. This year I must thank the Club President, Geoff Le Marne who reorganised his schedule to make sure that we had plenty of man power on the ground for the opening days. Many thanks Geoff for your efforts... I must also thank Mrs. Fay Ferguson who manages the club sales table for the full three days without complaint even though her husband Mal was in hospital for these days. It is members like this who still show an amazing amount of commitment even when times are hard. Thanks Fay for all that you do for our Club.

To the other club members that gave freely of their time can I please offer a huge Thank You. It was so gratifying to see so many of our members giving freely of their time, assisting members of the public with their purchases, answering peoples question regarding the culture of orchids and having a great time. It is this camaraderie that is making this Club one of the best orchid societies in Australia.

We again had the volunteers from Retina Australia. These generous people were there for the three days selling raffle plants for this wonderful charity. The patron of the charity Mr. Don Burke also generously gave some of his time to personally see the show and chat with our club members. He also came in on the Sunday of the show and drew the winning raffle tickets. The prizes were orchid plants that the vendors had donated and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Don for his efforts and his support.



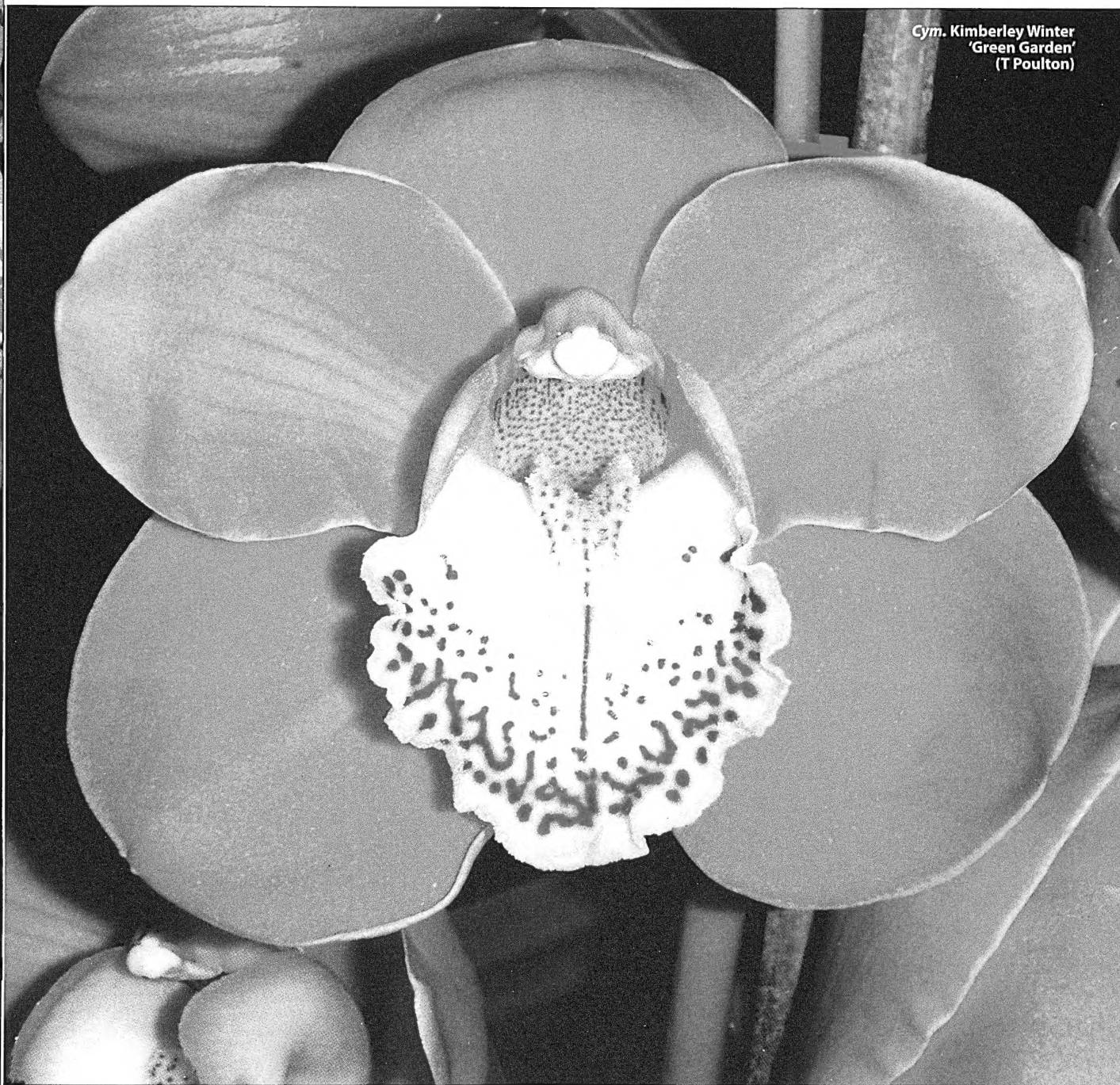


*Cym. Albryant*  
**'Superstar'**  
(G Kovacs)



*Cym. (Dream Temple x*  
*Pure Envy)*  
**'Phoenix'**  
(G Bryant)

*Cym. Kimberley Winter*  
*'Green Garden'*  
(T Poulton)



Rob Wells won the prestigious "Burke's Backyard Cymbidium for 2011" with a prolific first flowered seedling, subsequently named as *Cym. Mary Green 'Dural National'*. This is a pendulous miniature cross between the pure white *Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade'* and the species *Cym. devonianum*. This plant also won Champion Seedling of the Show.

We once again had the services from the Dural Rotary Club who provided all with the necessary refreshments. The guys and gals spend the day feeding us sausage and onion sandwiches and coffee. With their attendance it completes a great day out and they are a regular added feature to the show.

At the conclusion of the show it was also great to see all members help each other. The venue was totally cleaned out

within an hour and the floor slept and you wouldn't even know that we had been there. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year along with many new faces. ■

*Peter Moore,*  
*Secretary,*

*Cymbidium Club of Australia*  
*10 Stephanie Street*  
*Padstow NSW 2211*

*Email: petertmoore1@bigpond.com*





**Left:**  
**Cym. Kulnura Angel**  
**'Strawberry'**  
(Barrita Orchids)



**Right:**  
**Cym. Mighty Tracey**  
**'Royale'**  
(G Le Marne)



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**Right:**  
*Cym. Kalahari Pepper*  
**'Barbara'**  
(C & K Gillespie)

**Below:**  
*Cym. Kalahari Pepper*  
**'Barbara'**  
(C & K Gillespie)

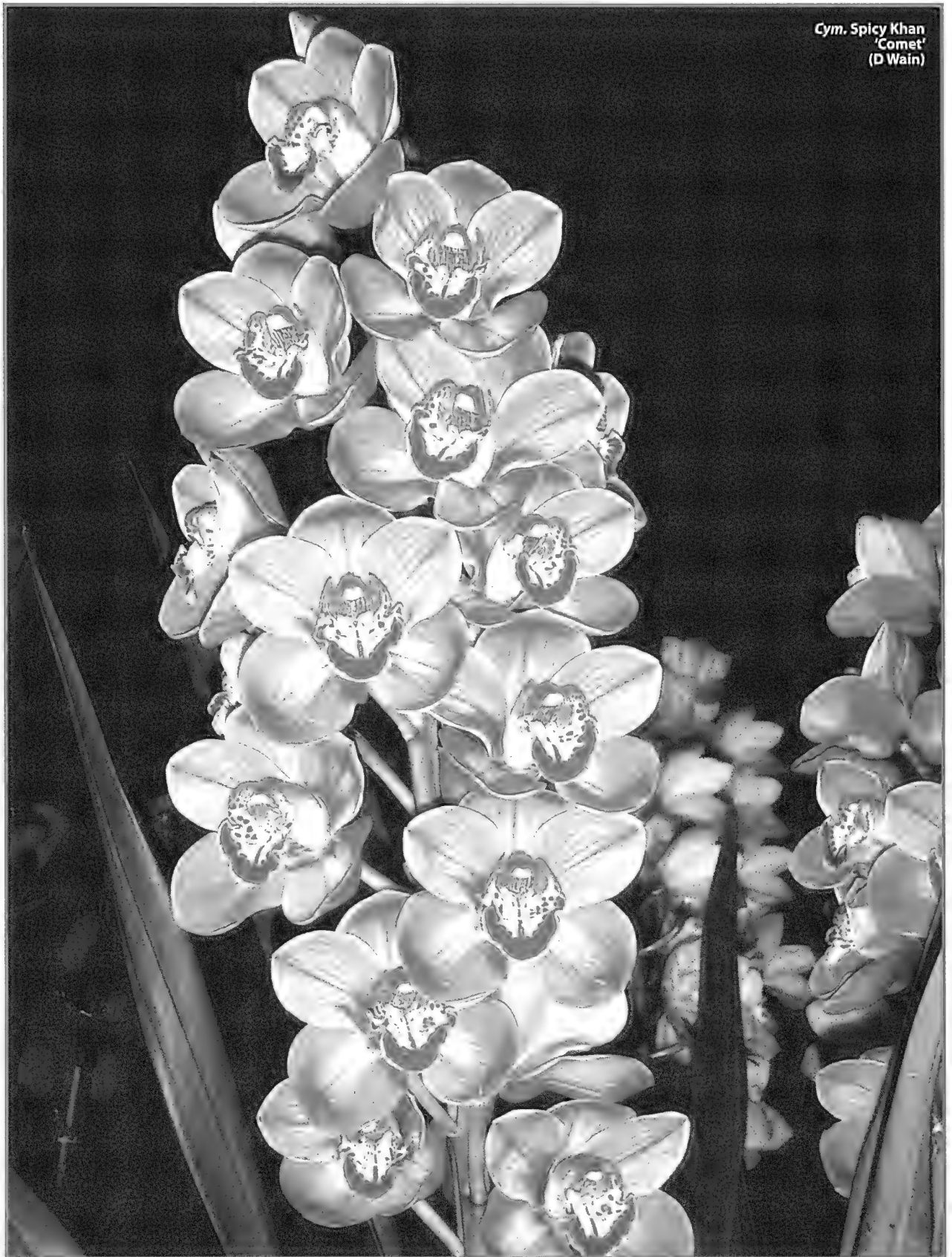






*Cym. Valley Olympic*  
*'Lachie'*  
(I Drury)

*Cym. Spicy Khan*  
'Comet'  
(D Wain)







*Cym.* (Lunar Fury x  
Amber Sands)  
(G Giles)



*Cym.* Foxfire Amber  
'Dural'  
(G Giles)



Cym. Copper Wall  
'Mustard'  
(G Giles)

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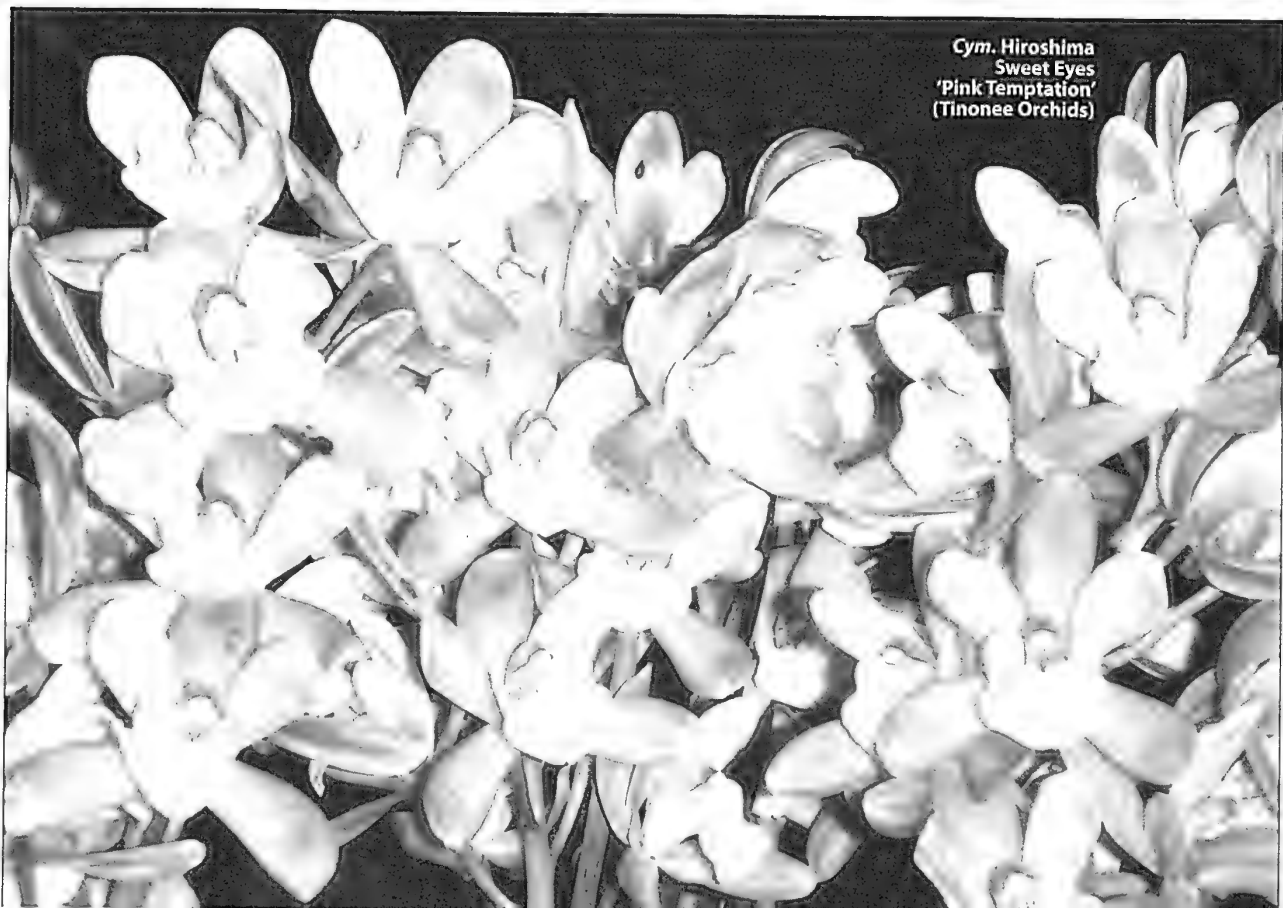
*Cym. Flaming Vulcan*  
'TPS Keirra'  
(T Poulton)



*Cym.* Flaming Vulcan  
'Nev'  
(G Serhan)



*Cym.* Hiroshima  
Sweet Eyes  
'Pink Temptation'  
(Tinonee Orchids)







**Above:**  
**Cym. Radiant Ruby**  
**'Aussie Gem'**  
 (A & J Gatt),  
 photo: Terry Davis

**Right:**  
**Cym. Radiant Ruby**  
**'Aussie Gem'**  
 (A & J Gatt)

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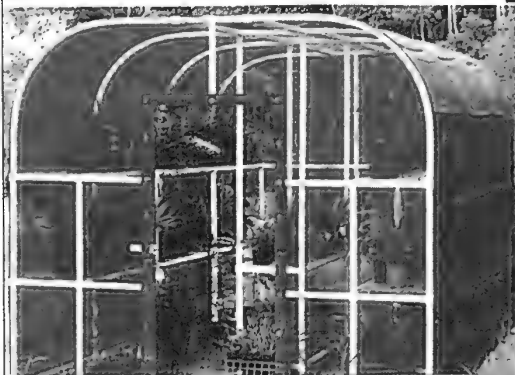
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Above: Rob Wells and Don Burke with the Burke's Backyard Cymbidium for 2011

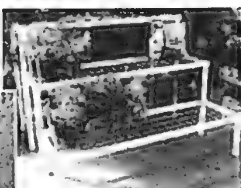
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Cym. Mary Green  
'Dural National'  
(R Wells)







*Cym.* (Pywacket x  
Hot n Spicy)  
(W Turville)



*Dendrobium*  
Avril's Gold  
'Jamie'  
(P & R Gibson)

*Phalaenopsis*  
(Sogo Yukidian x Taisuco Day)  
(K Wallace P/L)



*Laeliocattleya*  
*Orglades Grand*  
'Yu-Chang Beauty'  
(K & F Harris)



# Deflasking members of the *Catasetinae*

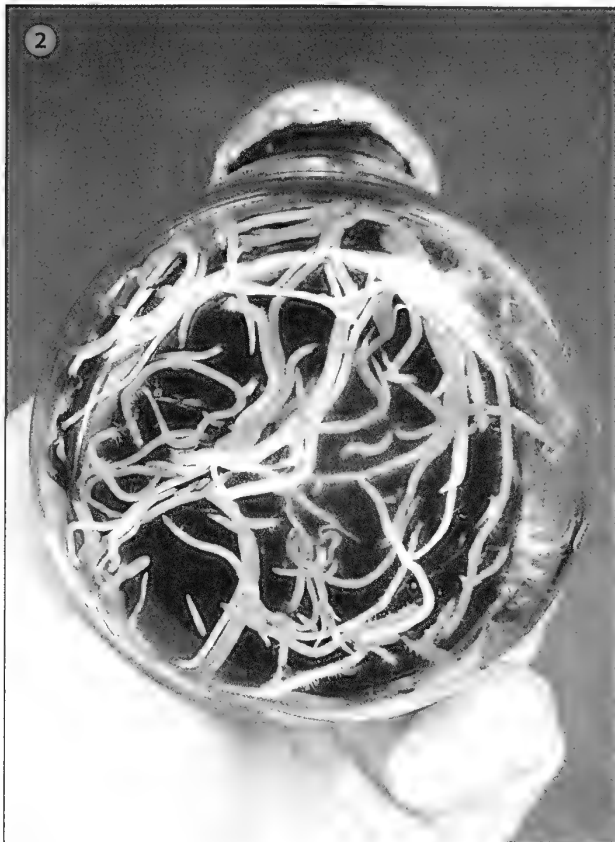
Text and photos by Fred Clarke

**W**ith the resurgence of popularity in the genus *Catasetinae* which include *Catasetum Cycnoches*, *Mormodes*, and *Clowesia* many are asking how to deflask these as they grow and look very different in flask from other orchids. When the plantlets are replated for the final time, the new shoots elongate quickly and have a tendency to produce aerial roots along the internodes with a small bulblet that develops often an inch or more above the agar. So the big question is how to plant out these unruly looking plantlets?

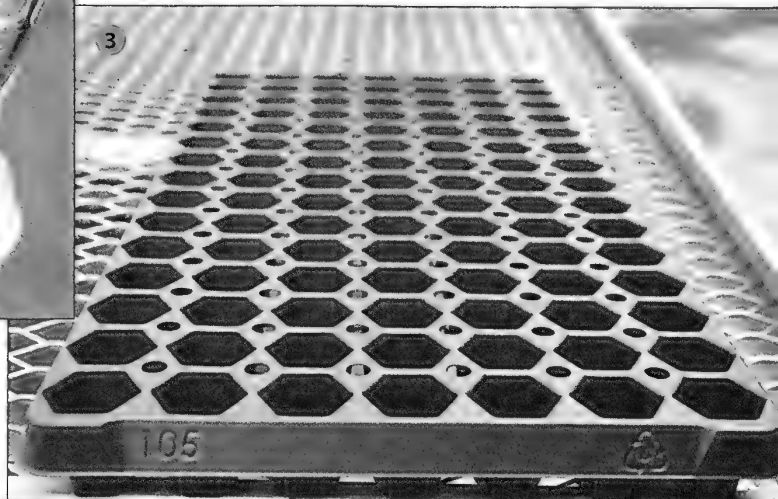
It is important to remember that as a part of their annual growth cycle, these orchids have an active summer growth phase and distinct winter dormancy. When deflasking do so in the early spring, this allows for minimal stress and more importantly assures a long growing season where the new growths will have ample time to develop and mature before winter arrives.



Above (1): Flask ready



Above (2): Flask roots



Below (3): Cell tray 105





There are two methods in removing plants from flask, one is to wrap the bottle with a sheet of newspaper and with a hammer hit the base of the flask with a downward glancing blow away from your body. With some practice this will cleanly break the base of the flask and not harm the plants (or you!). The second method is to fill the flasks with water and shake to loosen the agar then turn over the bottle and dump the contents out. I will use both techniques depending on the conditions and density of the plants in flask.

Left (4): Getting ready



Right (5): Open flasks

Below (6): Dip flask in Physan water solution



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The plantlets are soaked for a minute or so in a dilute quaternary ammonia compound like Physan 20, Consan Triple Action 20 or RD20. It is very important to use the labelled rate, more is *not* better.

**Left (7):** Firmly hit base of flask with palm to dislodge agar and plants



**Right (8):** Hit base firmly

**Below (9):** Pour out solution



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**Left (10):** Remove plants



**Right (11):** Remove plants

**Below (12):** Remove from flasks



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Once removed from the soak, select and grade the plantlets by size. This is to make planting the largest to the smallest plants easier to accomplish. I have experimented with potting the plants into community pots and cell trays. The best growth has resulted with the 105 cell trays (like the ones nurseries use for planting seeds) and use slightly moist AAA New Zealand *Sphagnum* moss as the potting media. (Ed. Similar trays are available through the Orchid Tray Company, Orchidaceous Supplies, Easy Orchids and Tinonee Orchid Nursery.)

**Right (13):** On tray for planting



**Below (14):** Plant and moss



Select the largest plantlet and wrap the *Sphagnum* moss around roots and stem covering it up to the base of the bulblet forming a medium tight moss ball. Insert moss ball and plant into cell tray, it should be snug, not loose or too tight. The moss should be flush with the top of the 105 cell tray. Don't get concerned about filling the cell completely with moss; it may be better to have an air gap below the moss, I have noticed better drainage and root development leaving the gap. Select the next largest plant and repeat.

**Left (15):** Wrap moss around plant



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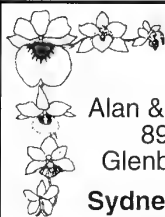
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Left (16): Final wrap



Right (17): Ready for tray



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Right (18): Insert into tray

Once the plant material is potted in the 105 trays I write 4 tags with the date, name and number of the cross one for each of the 4 corners of the cell tray, this assures the block of plants is well marked.

Optimal temperatures for the first 3 months are: 23-28 C° days and 18-21 C° nights.

A heating mat can be very useful during the early spring and autumn to assure the night temperatures are maintained. Light levels at 1000 foot-candles and humidity levels at 50-80% are ideal. Fertilisation is very important for young plants from flasks, use ¼ tsp fertilised for every 4 litres of water. Careful attention to watering at this early stage is one of the most important aspects to getting a good start. As the moss holds lots of water monitoring the moisture levels and allow the plugs to dry down but not become dry before the next watering is fundamental in your success. By having overly wet plugs for a long period of time will rot the roots and set the plantlets back or even kill them.

After three months and until autumn the plants will be developing new roots and top growth keep the night temperatures the same and higher day temps up to 30-33 C° are fine. Light levels can be increased to 1500 foot-candles while maintaining the humidity.

Right (19): Insert and push in with index finger



Continue to manage the moisture levels of the moss allowing for the wet to almost dry cycles and continue the fertilisation as described earlier.

By late autumn the plants will have developed a nice little bulb. With the change in season the plants will want to go dormant but you want these first year plants to keep growing as long as possible and have a short dormancy. In order to assure this the night temperatures are maintained at 18-21 C°. With the arrival of winter and short days, special attention to irrigation frequency is now needed in order to avoid over watering.

In early spring the new growth will start at the base of the previous growth and when it is about 3cm long it is time

to pot up into 70mm pot. Again AAA New Zealand *Sphagnum* moss is the media of choice, place a few Styrofoam peanuts or similar in the bottom of the pots prior to potting to allow for an air gap in the bottom.

The next seasons growing methods should follow the concepts article in the August-September 2010 issue of the *Australian Orchid Review* (Vol. 75, No. 4, pages 2-35).

"The flower colour, shapes, and fragrances were like none I had ever seen before and that combined with the seasonal changes the plants go thru I soon realised these plants were for me."

If you are just getting interested in the Catasetinae alliance I am sure you will

be surprised on how spectacular the flowers are and how easy they are to grow.

And if you have been growing Catasetinae you already understand.....

(Fred Clarke is one of the keynote speakers at the upcoming 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Orchid Conference & Show, being held in Perth, Western Australia from 11-16 September 2012).

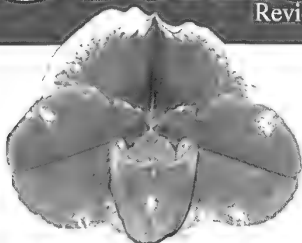
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Above (20): Finished!

# Australian Orchid Review



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*Dendrobium*  
Aussie's Limelight  
(photo: David Banks)

# Dendrobium Aussie's Limelight

by Phil Spence

**A**t the St Ives Orchid Fair in August 2011, I exhibited a fairly new and rarely seen Australasian *Dendrobium* hybrid from my own breeding program.

I registered this cross in 2009 as *Dendrobium* Aussie's Limelight and it is a primary hybrid between the New Guinea species *Dendrobium biloculare* and the north Queensland form of the Australian *Dendrobium speciosum* subsp. *pedunculatum* 'Megga'.

The distinctive and attractive *Dendrobium biloculare* belongs to the Section *Latouria* and has long-lasting flowers. It is a rare species that was lost for almost a century. However, it was recently rediscovered in 1996 by Dr. Mark A. Clements and I while on a botanical patrol to the Torricelli Mountains, West Sepik Province, PNG, as part of a team from the National Capitol Botanic Gardens, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

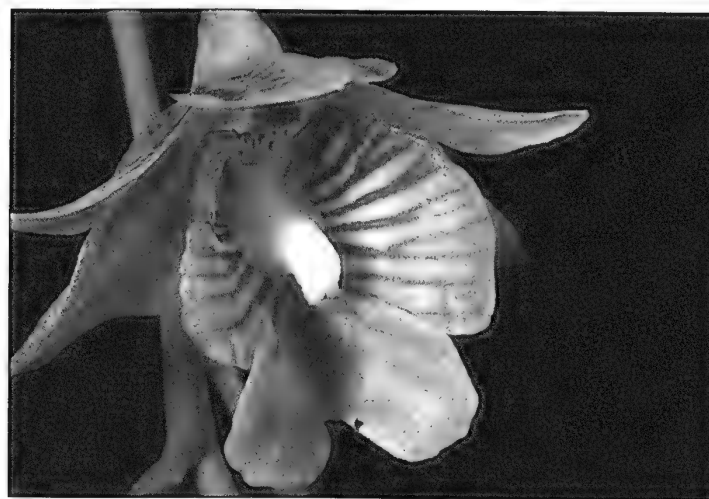
There were never many seedlings raised from this cross, as is often the case of inter-sectional hybrids. These plants started to flower a few years ago and are a fine addition to the

many hybrids that have been made over the years with *Dendrobium speciosum*. The flowers have a sweet perfume and are so much longer lasting, holding in fine condition for well over a month.

In cultivation they can take a wide range of temperatures, and seem to grow quite happily amongst other Australian native *Dendrobium* hybrids in the shadehouse. There seems to be no rigid flowering season as they have bloomed at different times of the year, and as the inflorescence withers they often go into a second flowering. The first plant to flower has produced viable seed and we await an interesting outcome with what we have mated it with!

*Phil Spence*  
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Wamberal, NSW

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Above:  
*Dendrobium biloculare*  
labellum detail  
(photo: Phil Spence)

Left:  
*Dendrobium biloculare*  
(photo: Phil Spence)

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AOB 024



# My favourite orchids: *Nematoceras*

Text and photos by Ian St George

**P**lants die when I try to grow them.

That includes orchids, especially New Zealand wild orchids. It's galling, because my family are all green-fingered, and I have a great passion for NZ wild orchids: I have been writing about them for 25 years.

Nowadays I don't try to grow them at all: I restrict my interest to plants growing in the wild. For the most part that is a cheerful outcome, because most of our orchids are easy enough to find - even the endemic ones. I live in the eastern islands of Australasia, and, as on all islands, our plants show a high degree of endemism.

Among the most fascinating of NZ endemics are our spider orchids. Every country has its spider orchids, and the name is applied to many different genera: in NZ it is applied to *Nematoceras*, a genus of terrestrial herbs (previously treated within the genus *Corybas*) that has adapted to low light levels of the forest floor by developing a wide flat leaf or by varying degrees of dependence on mycorrhizal association with other plants, even (in the case of the related *Molloybas*) becoming achlorophyllous (lacking chlorophyll, the green pigment); adapted to the paucity of insects in the NZ forests by developing a multifocal system for reproducing; and adapted to low wind levels in the forest by raising its seed capsules high above the leaf. Furthermore it has adapted to a changing environment by hybridising among species.

These are survivors, perfectly fitted to their habitat.

That hybridisation is at least partly responsible for what appears to be a large number of undescribed taxa. It was said of *Corybas* in Malaysia that "there is a different species on every hilltop", and while that would be an exaggeration if applied to the NZ *Nematoceras*, a growing number of new and unusual forms do await the taxonomists' attention. For instance, what was until recently one orchid, *Nematoceras trilobum*, is an aggregate of perhaps as many as 27 taxa, only three of them formally described. Currently, there are 15 formally described species of *Nematoceras*.

## Reproduction

Many *Nematoceras* are scented to attract insect pollinators - always (as far as we know) one or more of NZ's many species of fungus gnats. The "spider" moniker derives from the long thin sepals and petals, which act as "pollen guides". Insect-pollinated species have varying degrees of purple in the flowers (self-pollinating *Nematoceras papa* is green). Insects can also "see" in the ultraviolet range, and ultraviolet reflectance photography shows that the flowers have a "pale" centre, surrounded by a darker ring. The insect crawls into the flower, and is attracted further in toward the column by light entering via open auricles - these are "window flowers" in that sense. Pollinia attach to the head of the insect which then backs out (sometimes it gets stuck and perishes there; some have suggested tiny gnats may exit via the auricles), to go on and visit another flower.

Thus insect pollinators are attracted from downwind by fragrance, are shown (once near the plant) where to go by the radiating filiform tepals, the lurid purple of the flower and the "target" of reflected ultraviolet radiation, and once in the dark recesses of the flower are attracted to the column by light entering via the auricles. There may be other rewards - there appears to be a nectary in front of the column



in some species; gnats sometimes lay eggs in the ventral groove of the labellum; the fragrance may be sexual, so pseudocopulation may be the drawback.

Once fertilisation is complete, the flower withers and the swelling ovary is carried high above the plant by considerable elongation of the fruiting stem.

Darwin abhorred fertilisation by other than crossings between individuals, but apart from the scarcity of insects in NZ, high energy expenditure is required to make coloured and scented flowers and to grow long fruiting stems; so many *Nematoceras* resort to vegetative multiplication, and some are colourless and odourless selfers. A few individuals of *Nematoceras* sp. "pygmy" flower above the frost-hardened ground near Queenstown in July, but by late August thousands of flowerless plants are growing in great mats under the beech trees.



**Above:** *Nematoceras papa* is self-pollinating

**Below:**  
*Molloybas cryptanthus* flowers beneath the leaf litter and derives its nutrition by mycorrhizal association with host plants



*Nematoceras trilobum* s.s.



## Cultivation

It is of course the variable dependence on nutrition from neighbouring plants mediated by soil fungi that make many of these orchids hard to grow. Some growers have achieved reasonable longevity with some species. But when I am asking, "Are these two plants really different? or do they seem different because of dissimilar habitats?" it would be good to be able to grow both in identical media and identical climate – but I never can and quite often nobody can.

So we have to go out into the forest and watch them.

(Ian St George has edited the *NZ Native Orchid Journal* for 25 years, and has been editor, author and co-author of a number of other publications on NZ orchids. He has spoken at a number of NZ and international conferences, and has travelled widely in search of wild orchids in other countries.)

*Ian St George*

*Editor, the New Zealand Native Orchid Journal.*

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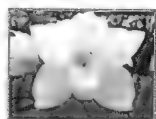
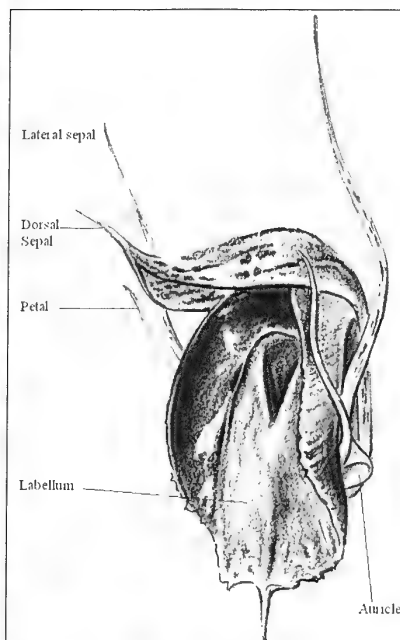
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*Nematoceras macranthum*

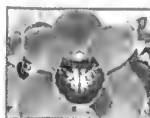


Above: *Nematoceras trilobum* s.s.  
ultraviolet reflectance photograph

Below: *Nematoceras orbiculatum*:  
drawing by J Bruce Irwin



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AOB 124



# A Handful of Australia's Southernmost Orchids

Text and photos by Allegra Biggs Dale

Experiences and people are directly related to my enjoyment in life, orchids have added spice to the mix and each come with its own wee tale...enjoy!

## *Nematoceras dienemum* (syn. *Corybas dienemus*) Windswept Helmet Orchid

'You can't always get what you want...'

Mick Jagger's refrain reverberates in my head every time I think of this iridescent, endemic creature, born of a cold, boggy soak on the sub Antarctic island of Macquarie. By chance in 2003, Ron Parsons and I were invited into the Antarctic quarantine container at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, to see this orchid that was discovered a decade earlier. Trembling with expectation, I went all wobbly after viewing this foreign-looking, succulent orchid with its long, lateral sepals and petals erect, as though standing guard over itself from intruders. It's possible these orchids arrived on the island in the early stages via currents, birds or wind from New Zealand. If I was to see them in situ, I would also have to travel the sea from Hobart to Macquarie Island with an invitation either from the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) or some such government body. My guide would be an expert who would lead me for kilometres in probable ghastly weather through a featherbed to one of the colonies in the region of 54° 30'S and 158° 55'E. At the Handspike Corner in the space of 100m x 100m some 5000 plants have been recorded, but my guide would be ensuring their protection as they are considered vulnerable. Occasionally my dreams are realised and I came very close in February 2011 whilst visiting Macquarie Island en route to the Ross Sea. Alas, there was no such permit or invitation, flowering ends in January and besides, I was just another punter. With a stroke of luck, Dr. James Doube, AAD's island medic who had been involved with the latest research was chatting with my husband Adrian. When Jamie discovered I was an orchid nut, he took us into his office to share images of the plant and its newly discovered relation, *Nematoceras sulcatum* (syn. *Corybas sulcatus*) the Macquarie Island Helmet Orchid formally described in 2007. That's as close as I've managed to get and since the chances are slight that I'll have another opportunity, it remains at the top of my list of favourites. The photos of both of these related species were taken by Dr. James Doube, and I thank him for making these available for this article. The only two orchid species known from, and endemic to, Macquarie Island.



Above: *Nematoceras dienemum*  
Macquarie Island (Photo: James Doube)

Below: *Nematoceras sulcatum*  
Macquarie Island (Photo: James Doube)



## *Burnettia cuneata* Lizard Orchid

**Weird, wonderful, and full of surprises.**

I love the fact that this orchid does not conform to the standard, at least on the Labillardiere Estate. Since the first sighting in 1997 after creating our wetlands in 1994 when soil was disturbed, we have seen many specimens in a variety of places. None of the locations have been burnt; at most they have been slashed during our annual regime to keep the tracks clear for fire prevention purposes and recreational enjoyment. Generally they'll appear in poorly drained soils, occasionally we see them in areas that are drier, but they pop up year after year at the same sites, sometimes with increasing numbers in light, dark and white forms. So why might this orchid behave so differently here? The answer is, I have no idea! It's the mystic of orchids that captures my attention playing a significant role in my interest; therefore this monotypic genus (with only one species) that keeps me guessing is high on the list.



**Above: *Burnettia cuneata***  
Bruny Island, Tasmania

## *Eriochilus cucullatus* Pink Autumn Orchid

**Of confusion and obsession.**

So why is this little orchid on my list? Simple, it was the first orchid I saw on our property the Labillardiere Estate in 1992 and I couldn't believe it was an orchid when I found out it was in fact an orchid! No orchid I'd ever seen growing up in the Asian tropics or living in Hawaii ever looked like this. Furthermore, it was the first orchid that the ships naturalist Jacques Labillardiere found during his botanical collection at Recherche Bay during the 1792 expedition in search of La Perouse with Admiral Bruny D'Entrecasteux. She's dainty, spry, whimsical and brings a broad smile to my face. She wears either white or pink chaps and her single or multiple little flowers dance atop a lean scape in the soft breezes of late summer and autumn. Her abundant colonies can be found most places on our land in a wide variety of habitat conditions and it's the signal for me that winter is approaching. She holds a special place in my heart.



**Left: *Eriochilus cucullatus***  
Bruny Island, Tasmania



**Right: *Eriochilus cucullatus***  
Bruny Island, Tasmania



## *Sarcochilus australis* Gunn's Tree Orchid

**Great things come in small packages.**

What an elegant orchid this epiphyte is and how I wish it grew on our property! We have shady, moist, forest gullies protected from the wind and many dogwoods ready to be host, in other words the perfect habitat. Perhaps they do exist but to date the plants elude my keen eye or I would proudly take visitors to see them during flowering in November and December. Our first viewing of the long rooted plants with the fragrant flowers delicately protruding from their racemes was in Christmas Hills and later on the same trip at Sisters Beach, I remember well finding it difficult to see them in the low light despite the fact there is no confusing species. Once I got the hang of it, they seemed to be everywhere, a veritable jungle of clinging roots and sparkling, priceless jewels lighting our path back from whence we came.

**Left: *Sarcochilus australis***  
Tasmanian form

## *Thelymitra flexuosa* Twisted Sun Orchid

**The highs and lows of discovery, ah but patience is a virtue.**

It was late October 2008 and again my buddy Ron Parsons was visiting from the USA. As we left the residence on a very hot, spring afternoon for our wetlands 800 metres south, Ron asked if I had seen *Thelymitra flexuosa* yet. 'No,' was my answer, 'I've been waiting for many years since I'd been told to expect them.' So, off we went to see what we could see, no sooner had we entered the wetlands and walked a couple hundred steps, boom, boom, boom, there they were, all seven of them, at a wet, peaty, junction. We jumped for joy but the excitement was dampened as I realised further hunting had to be aborted. It was imperative we protect these beautiful, pale yellow, unmistakable orchids with their bright orange anthers from the wrath of the resident wallabies. We'd have to cage them, so we made our way quickly to the sheds, constructing wire tubes, sorting stakes, getting the gear back to the site and covering them before dusk. We were working to a deadline so we'd hardly had a moment to revel in the splendour of these beauties, but it was worth the effort, as each year I have the pleasure of the renewal process and the added bonus of a few extra plants.

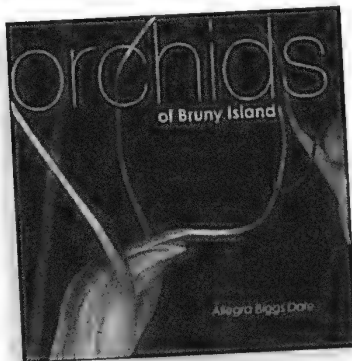
**Right: *Thelymitra flexuosa***  
Bruny Island, Tasmania







(Allegra and her husband Adrian live on over 600 hectares at Labillardiere Estate on Bruny Island, just off the southeast coast of Tasmania. In 2008, Allegra self-published a 78-page book of little treasures on her local native orchids. It's hardcover with a glossy dustcover. Limited copies of *Orchids of Bruny Island* are still available direct from the author. Price is A\$30 which includes shipping and handling anywhere within Australia.)



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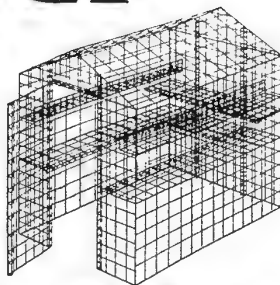
Left: Allegra with the Blue Sun Orchid  
*Thelymitra aristata* at Labillardiere Estate  
(Photo: Ron Parsons)

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Above: *Dendrobium speciosum* in typical habitat (Cania Gorge, Queensland), growing on exposed rocky surfaces, often on sandstone cliffs and boulders

# Australian Succulent Orchids

## *When is an orchid also a succulent?*

Text and photos by Attila Kapitany

Numerous dry-tolerant native orchids are also grown by cactus and succulent society members across the country. Among these are some exceptionally hardy epiphytic and lithophytic species. The most notable and well-known of all is *Dendrobium speciosum* and all its related taxa. Among this

plant's many common names are Rock Orchid and Rock Lily. It is also well-regarded as an exceptionally hardy rockery plant, and as many gardeners also put their succulents into a rockery, it's easy to see why the association might be an acceptable one.



Above: *Dendrobium speciosum* cohabiting with the Elkhorn Fern *Platycerium bifurcatum*

The obvious question often arises in discussion about this plant's relevance in a succulent collection. Is it really a succulent? Just because it grows well amongst them, doesn't really make it a succulent! More importantly, at what level of fleshiness or 'succulence' does any plant become suitably succulent enough to qualify as a true succulent plant, accepted by all?

A lot of debate goes on about such matters even in scientific circles.

The general accepted criteria for inclusion into any succulent collection is as follows:

1. An obvious water-storage capacity in the leaves, stems or roots (or combinations of these).

2. Xerophytic qualities - able to survive extended dry periods, without any severe loss of leaves or condition.

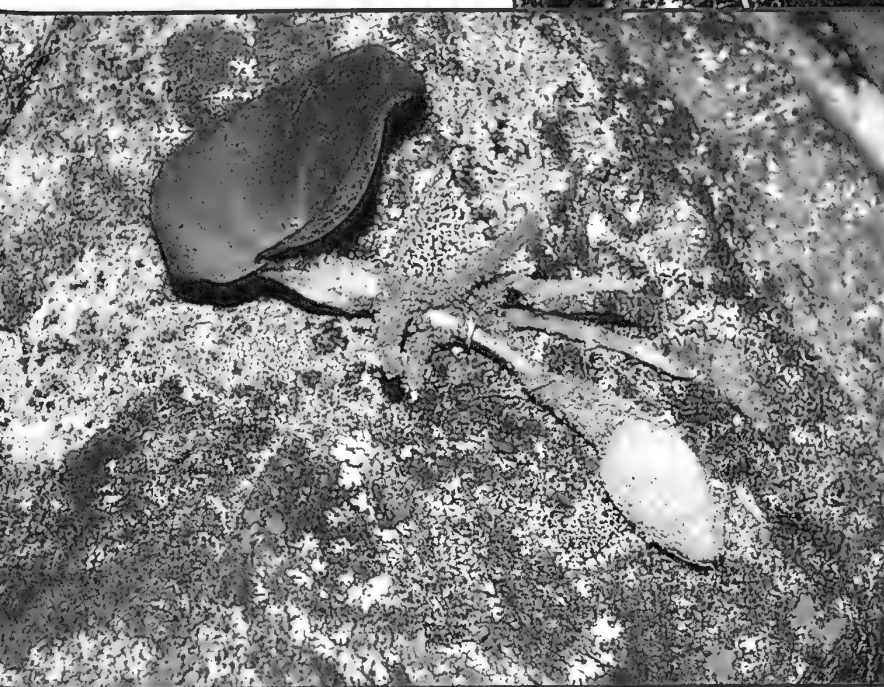
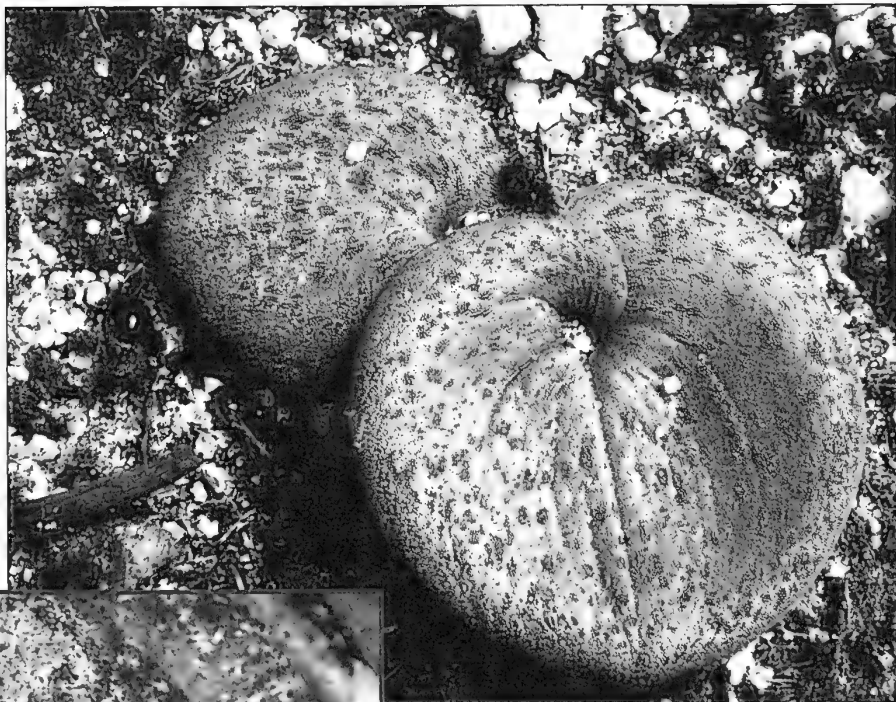
3. An ability to not only survive, but grow well with minimal food, water and care in cultivation.(usually remaining relatively compact in form)

Interestingly in the Cairns Botanic Gardens in North Queensland, there is a swamp boardwalk leading through parts of the gardens when a large information sign greets visitors. The sign reads, '.....rainforest understorey where succulent plants like Ginger and *Alocasia* are found.....' While it may be correct to state that such plants are succulent to some degree, these plants would not survive long in the same conditions in which we grow most of our cacti and succulents.



The perennial semi-succulent terrestrial (geophytic) orchid, *Pyrorchis nigricans* usually has a single annual fleshy leaf which grows from a succulent tuber in the cooler months which then dies back to, only the tuber before the drier summer months. There are hundreds of similar orchids in Australia that have very succulent tubers like this; however, they are not generally regarded as succulent plants.

**Right: *Pyrorchis nigricans***  
– a semi-succulent geophyte with round leaves  
from 40-100 mm in length



**Left: *Pyrorchis nigricans***  
showing its exposed succulent tuber

**Below: *Pyrorchis nigricans***  
– form from Royal National Park, Sydney NSW  
(Photo: Tony Rodgers)



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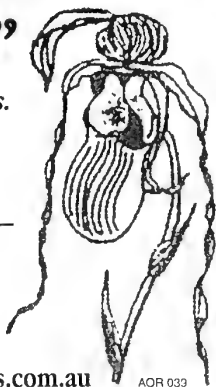
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Those xerophytic plants that have evolved swollen water storage organs, above or below the ground, expand and contract as water reserves are stored and used. After a drought-breaking thunderstorm, a shrivelled or limp plant can expand quickly (in the space of days or weeks) to become turgid and more succulent. If there are no following rains in the weeks or months after the initial thunderstorm, then these plants will slowly contract as reserves of water are used.

Below are some of the most drought-hardy succulent orchids that can also be considered and grown as succulents.

- *Bulbophyllum shepherdii*
- *Dendrobium canaliculatum*
- *Dendrobium lichenastrum*
- *Dendrobium speciosum*
- *Dockrillia cucumerina*
- *Dockrillia linguiformis*
- *Dockrillia nugentii*
- *Dockrillia rigida*
- *Dockrillia striolata*
- *Dockrillia wassellii*

From the above list it becomes obvious that the genus of Australian orchid that most displays succulence and dry-tolerance would most certainly be *Dockrillia*, commonly referred to as Pencil Orchids. *Dockrillia* are renowned for having leaves that are greatly reduced, compact, leather-textured or in many cases, with terete (long and circular in cross-section) leaves. Terete leaves are a very common feature of succulent plants around the world.

Environments with high light intensities produce shorter, more



Above: *Bulbophyllum shepherdii* growing as a lithophyte on lichen-encrusted sandstone

compact and fleshier plants. The same plants growing in a shady environment are likely to be taller, with larger, thinner leaves.

Soils that are very stony, rocky or sandy are usually deficient in nitrogen. A lack of nitrogen can also result in slow-growing plants with short, stout stems and leaves. The same plants grown in organically enriched soil would grow rapidly taller and greener.

In concluding this article another relevant point is that the many rocky, exposed habitats where lithophytic

orchid species are commonly found are also ideal habitats where a range of other indigenous succulent plant genera grow. This list of non-orchidaceous plants includes *Bulbine*, *Calandrinia*, *Crassula*, *Dischidia*, *Doryanthes*, *Hoya*, *Hydnophytum*, *Myrmecodia*, *Peperomia* and *Plectranthus*.

Attila Kapitany

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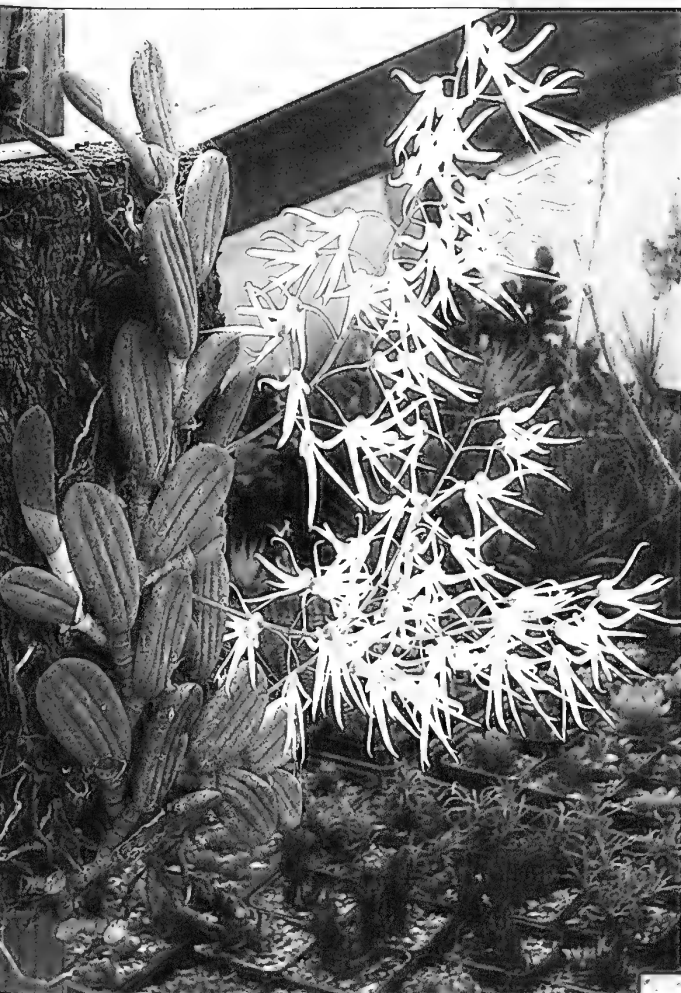
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**Above left:** *Dockrillia linguiformis* – flowers very readily and heavily in spring



**Above right:** *Dockrillia linguiformis* – in habitat its colours are far more dramatic when the plants are exposed

**Right:** *Dockrillia linguiformis* can be very cryptic when not in bloom



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**Above left:** *Dockrillia cucumerina* – unlike here, in habitat it is usually extremely well-camouflaged against dark *Casuarina* tree bark



**Above right:** *Dockrillia cucumerina* – its natural growth is generally downward-pointing

**Right:** *Dockrillia cucumerina*  
– flowering in cultivation



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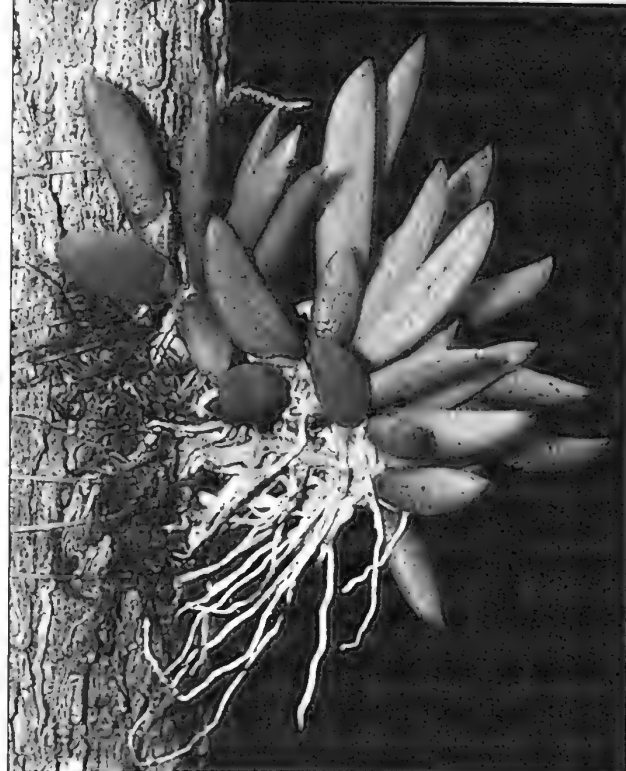
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Above left: *Dockrillia nugentii* – seed-raised plant



Above right: *Dockrillia (rigida x linguiformis)* hybrid

Right: *Dockrillia striolata*  
– has very wiry and flexible leaves and stems

Below: *Dendrobium lichenastrum*  
– a lovely miniature species in flower



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# Australian Style Cymbidiums

by Ray Clement

Australian Cymbidiums have long been amongst my favourite of all orchids. *Cymbidium suave* is very common in the bush around my home and so I often have the chance to see it in the wild. Just as impressive is *Cymbidium madidum* and the amazingly variable *Cymbidium canaliculatum* in their natural habitat.

These three species are quite unique in their character and habit and so when used in hybrids their influence is profound. Even as grandparents of a hybrid, the presence of the Aussie Cym is unmistakable, thus the term for these hybrids, "Australian Style Cymbidiums".

Many hybrids have been made over the years, mostly resulting in smallish flowers produced in profusion on pendulous stems. One of the most significant of these is *Cym. Australian Midnight* (*canaliculatum* "var. *sparkesii*" x *atropurpureum*). This orchid produces long stems of very dark maroon, nearly black blooms which have a strong coconut fragrance from the Asiatic *Cym. atropurpureum*. If grown similar to other cymbidiums, it can be stubborn to flower, preferring to keep growing. We find keeping it a little under potted, giving it good light and watering sparingly in the winter will encourage flowering. Another popular primary hybrid in this group is *Cym. Cricket* (*madidum* x *devonianum*). Cricket is a strong grower and easy to flower without special care, but the flowers are more an olive brown in colour. (For some strange reason, there

are still today plants of this hybrid mislabelled as *Cym. Little Black Sambo* (*madidum* x *canaliculatum*) which is

## Introducing *Cymbidium* Black Stump

*Cymbidium Black Stump* is the hybrid between Australian Midnight and Cricket. This hybrid is a combination of a quartet of *Cymbidium* species with a 25% influence of each: *canaliculatum*, *atropurpureum*, *madidum* and *devonianum*, so it is technically half Australian. We registered the cross a couple of years ago and the clone *Cymbidium* Black Stump 'Come in Spinner' AM/AOC was awarded in 2009. It also just won Grand Champion (and Champion Cymbidium) at the recent 17<sup>th</sup> Gold Coast – Tweed Orchid Fair for 2011. Apparently it just missed out on being elevated to a First Class Certificate (FCC). Our other clone 'Howzat' is also very nice. *Cym. Black Stump* carries the intense colour of Australian Midnight with the vigour of Cricket. First release mericlones of both *Cym. Black Stump* 'Come in Spinner' and the sister cultivar 'Howzat' will be available from Easy Orchids and Tinonee Orchids towards the later part of 2012.

Photos by David Banks. ■

Ray Clement

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Above: *Cymbidium* Australian Midnight 'Tinonee'

always a strong robust and rigid plant with thick channelled leaves, plus very different flowers.)





Above: *Cymbidium* Black Stump 'Come in Spinner' AM/AOC – flowering plant 2011





Above left: *Cymbidium Black Stump* 'Come in Spinner' AM/AOC



Above right: *Cymbidium Black Stump* 'Howzat'

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# Linebred forms of *Odontoglossum nobile*

by Robert M. Hamilton

I have included two colour photographs taken of a supposed *Odontoglossum nobile* (syn. *Odontoglossum pescatorei*) cross I made using an *O. nobile* from Keith Andrew (in the United Kingdom) and the albino (pure white), degenerate *O. nobile* harvested from protocorms brought back from Europe more than a decade ago; a poor grower of small size. I made this cross with plans of crossing siblings to recover better growing diploid "albas" of this Colombian species. Having seen this first flower I am trying to figure out what this thing is.

Both parents look like nobiles. I have about 10 seedlings, with the illustrated one the first to bloom. I have now bloomed two of this cross and have trouble believing it is correctly labelled. I suspect the album *O. nobile* is not a pure *O. nobile*. I don't know what it really is. Andy Easton thinks there may be some *O. crispum* bloodlines in this plants pedigree, (possibly the Fusa form, given its narrow, pointed segments).

The other possibility is I mixed up the cross; however, I have not made any crosses that would look like these seedlings. The only *O. crispum* sibling cross I made was a Colombian 2n from Posada he called alba (it is white; however, it has a touch of pink hence it is not a true alba) and *O. crispum* 'Xanthotes', a true Xanthotes from the Beall company. If this plant is from that cross I will be happy. I can cross it to a 2n alba and see what happens. We'll have a bit of a wait!

Hybrids between *crispum* and *nobile* have been misidentified in the past. Given the origin of many of our plants it is difficult

to verify their lineage. I offer no explanation. I suspect the flower in question maybe an *O. crispum*, from a *crispum*-sib or maybe hybrid!).

J. Gurney Fowler noted that by 1910 *Odontoglossum crispum* x *nobile* crosses were being represented as superior crispums, as pure crispums of unusually good shape still commanded the much higher price. His litmus test concerned the location of the apiculus (spur) on the back of the labellum. In *crispum*, the apiculus is the terminal point, i.e. the lip ends in a point without a spur on the back. In *nobile* the spur is distinctive and not located at the tip of the lip. Even a slight amount of *nobile* in the *crispum* line creates the noticeable distinction of a separate, distinctive apiculus.

The plant in question now appears to be a *crispum* with maybe some genetic influence from *nobile*. Most of the existing Charlesworth Premier-type "crispums" I have seen appear to be hybrids of *Odontoglossum* (*crispum* x *nobile*).

When Philip Altmann was operating the retail nursery Warnambool Orchids in Victoria, Australia he made a number of wonderful and improved linebred examples of *Odontoglossum nobile*. A few are showcased here.

Photos of the mystery hybrid by John Leathers, those of *O. nobile* by Philip Altmann.

Robert M. Hamilton  
University of CA at Berkeley, USA  
Email: bob@eecs.berkeley.edu



Above: *Odontoglossum crispum* (?) outcross that may have *O. nobile* heritage



Below: *Odontoglossum crispum* (?) outcross that may have *O. nobile* heritage

*Odontoglossum nobile*  
(albino form ex  
German nursery)



*Odontoglossum nobile*  
'Stripes'





*Odontoglossum nobile*  
(linebred by  
Philip Altmann)



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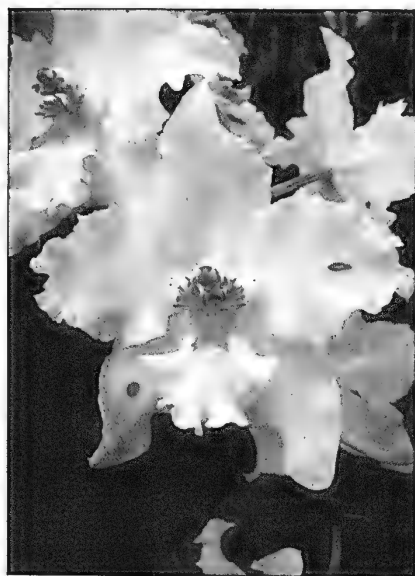


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**Above:**  
*Odontoglossum nobile*  
(linebred by Philip Altmann)



*Dendrochilum* sp. "Hairy"  
ex Samar Island, Philippines:  
growing and blooming in  
the wild, also showing  
the plant habit

# An Amazing Undescribed *Dendrochilum* Species from Samar Island, Philippines

Text by Jim Cootes, photos by Ronny Boos

*Just when you think you have seen it all...*

Over the many years that I have been studying the orchids of Southeast Asia, and in particular those species from the Philippines, I think I could safely say that there would not be too much left, orchid-wise, that would surprise me.

Well, that was until early in December 2010, when a German friend of mine, Ronny Boos, who runs a little guest house in the Philippines, sent me some pictures of a *Dendrochilum* species some of his guests had found on the island of Samar, in the central group of islands known as the Visayas.

All the *Dendrochilum* species that I have seen, previously, have always had flowers in which the floral segments, especially the sepals and petals are smooth, or lacking any sort of ornamentation on the surface. In a good number of species there are ridges on the labellum but for this article these ridges do not concern us.

Bear in mind that there are a number of Philippine species which have erose (as if chewed) edges to the petals [*D. apiculatum* and *D. smithianum*]. There are other species which have ocelli (small eye-like spots) on the floral segments and labellum [*D. ocellatum* and *D. unicorn*]. Of these four species I have only seen living plants of *Dchl. smithianum*. The others are only known to me from the fine drawings in the monograph on the genus *Dendrochilum* written by Dr. Henrik Pedersen, of Denmark, in 1997.

Imagine my amazement when I opened my emails and saw the images of the *Dendrochilum* illustrated here! We have never even imagined a "hairy" *Dendrochilum* flower.

I immediately sought the permission of the photographer to send these pictures to friends, who have a good knowledge and keen interest within the species of the genus *Dendrochilum*. To a man they were all "amazed" and "stunned" by the flowers they were seeing. I am certain there will be a similar reaction elsewhere in the orchid world.

It is without a doubt that this plant is an undescribed species, and that task will be performed, once flowers and plants have been preserved for herbarium specimens.

## Acknowledgements:

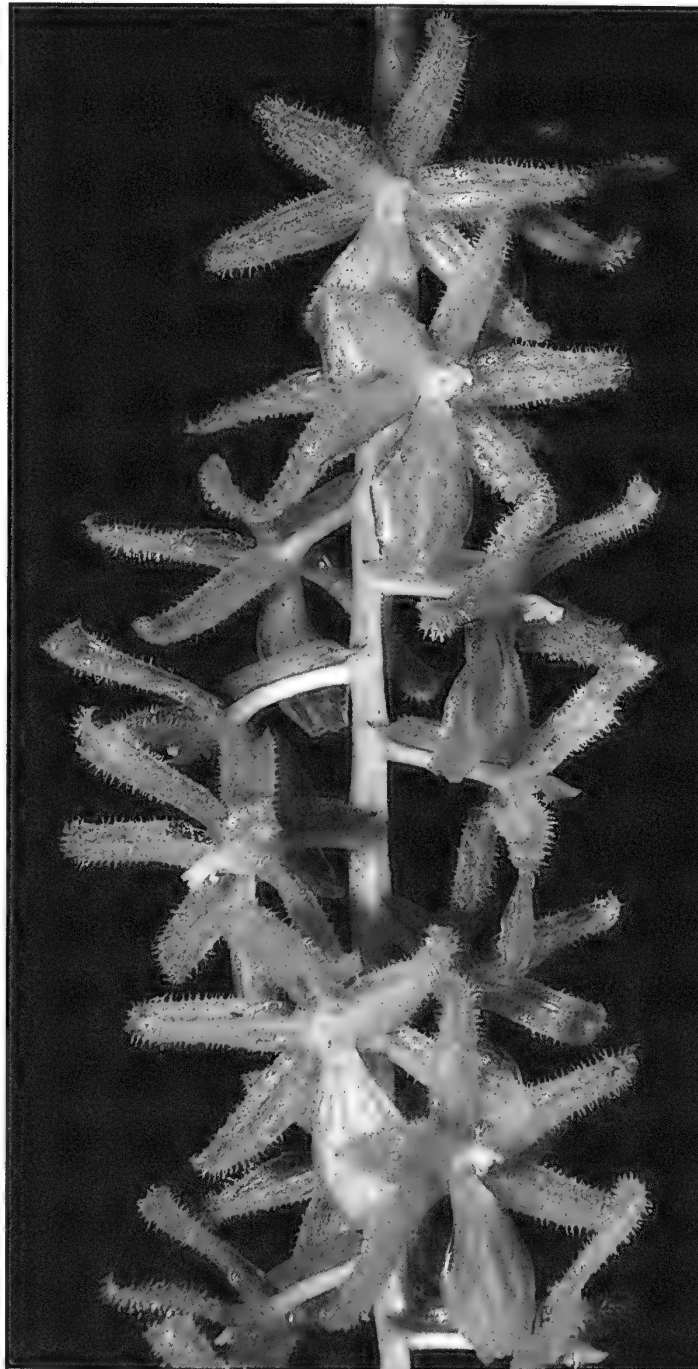
My sincere thanks are given to Ronny Boos for sharing his pictures of this remarkable *Dendrochilum* species.

## Reference:

- Pedersen H.Æ. 1997. The Genus *Dendrochilum* (Orchidaceae) in the Philippines – a taxonomic revision. *Opera Botanica* 131. ■

Jim Cootes  
Riverwood, NSW  
Email: [jecootes@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jecootes@ozemail.com.au)

Right: *Dendrochilum* sp. "Hairy"  
ex Samar Island, Philippines: part of inflorescence







Above: *Dendrochilum* sp. "Hairy" ex Samar Island, Philippines: floral detail

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# Two New Colourful *Cymbidium* Seedlings from Andy Easton

Orchid growers are always looking for new colours and styles in their favourite flowers. Here are a couple of new novelty hybrids that we are quite pleased with and were bred by us at New Horizon Orchids. I don't believe that these are true pelorics. Currently, both are unregistered hybrids.

## ***Cymbidium* (Valerie Absolonova x Parish Elf)**

This is a seedling which incidentally has bloomed similarly again this year but only on one side of the plant! Consequently it will never be cloned but kept as an oddity. I do not believe that this is in any way a true peloric phenomenon as the Parish Elf parent will have spots floating around on its petals in some of the flowers.

I have seen similar markings on a Neil Pagano hybrid (see below) also and while that plant is 100% marked on every petal; I attribute the markings to nothing more than its *canaliculatum* ancestry.

Now there are not two plants in the pot! The first bulb was in a 100mm pot. That was potted to a 150mm in 2010. It made two growths, one each side. The larger one matured and gave two spikes that both had the spots. The bulb on the other side did not mature and made no spikes. This year both the bulb that flowered last year and the one that missed, made one growth each. One of those growths, the one that came from last year's flowering bulb made a spike where the flowers had the spots. The other spike came from the growth originating with the bulb that skipped last year. It had a spike that was normal but clearly the same flower morphology, shape and size, as the one with petal spots.

It produces about a dozen blooms (80mm average) per spike, with quite small bulbs. It is a tetraploid.

## ***Cymbidium* (Kusuda Shining X Neil Pagano)**

This combination is 12.5% of the Aussie species *Cymbidium canaliculatum*.

I seem to wax and wane on this species regarding its place in hybridising. I get disappointed with its progeny and then it throws me a curve ball and a good one pops up! I only use the one hybrid, Neil Pagano, to breed with. It has perfectly straight spikes, is tetraploid and carries the alba genes too. To date, every alba from it has been awful!

Many of our new *Cymbidium* hybrids are shown and discussed on our forum [www.newhorizonorchids.com/forum](http://www.newhorizonorchids.com/forum)

Andy Easton  
New Horizon Orchids  
Salinas, CA, USA

Email: [andy.easton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andy.easton@sbcglobal.net)  
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Above: *Cymbidium* (Valerie Absolonova x Parish Elf)

Below: *Cymbidium* (Kusuda Shining X Neil Pagano)



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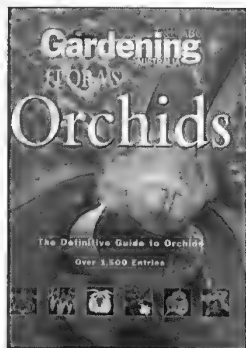
Senior Consultant David P. Banks

Part of the best-selling *Flora* range, this is the definitive guide to orchids with over 1,500 entries. Ranging from the unique to the unusual, the beautiful to the bizarre, orchids have long symbolised beauty, elegance and refinement. *Flora's Orchids* presents more than 1,500 varieties of this highly variable plant family, with entries accompanied by at least 1,300 stunning colour photographs. The orchids are arranged by genus in an A-Z format. Each entry first lists the scientific name in Latin, often accompanied by a Latin synonym and, where appropriate, the translated common name. Plant spread and height are listed, followed by symbols indicating plant type, natural growing locations, growing conditions, frost tolerance, preferred temperatures, type of flower, and preference for pot or mount cultivation. The brief descriptions explain the type of genus, geographic area, and flowering and dormancy seasons. There is a wealth of sound cultural and propagation advice.

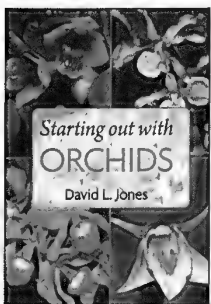
AOR Editor David P. Banks was the Senior Consultant for *Flora's Orchids* and is also credited as the Principal Writer. Especially valuable for aspiring botanists and average gardeners is the background information that precedes the dictionary text and explains orchid varieties, taxonomy, hybridisation, history, cultivation, propagation, and more. The history section delves into the fascinating historical development of the plant for culinary and medicinal usage and also explores the use of orchids in folklore and literature. A detailed cultivation table for each of the species is found in the appendix. This work is regarded by many as the logical replacement of *What Orchid Is That?*

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## STARTING OUT WITH ORCHIDS by David L. Jones

David Jones is arguably one of Australia's most prolific, precise and respected botanical and horticultural authors. The book is divided in two parts. Part One begins with the cultivation chapters, covering Easy Orchids for Beginners, General Cultivation Requirements, Growing Epiphytic Orchids, Growing Terrestrial Orchids, Orchid Pests and Diseases, Housing Your Orchids and Propagating Your Orchids. The information contained within these pages alone is required reading for all beginners through to experienced orchid growers. The text is very easy to read and understand with numerous sound cultivation tips and treatments discussed. There are many excellent and clear line illustrations that help describe terms or highlight diagnostic features. There are over 250 colour photographs.

Part Two discusses the orchids themselves with concise information on each species. They are grouped primarily according to climatic requirements, starting with cool growing orchids progressing to the warm growers, in alphabetical sequence first with terrestrial genera, followed by the epiphytes. Both Australian and exotic species are treated together. For each entry there is specific detailed information on each species, as well as a simple table giving the basic cultivation needs and flowering season. A glossary is also included to explain unfamiliar terms.

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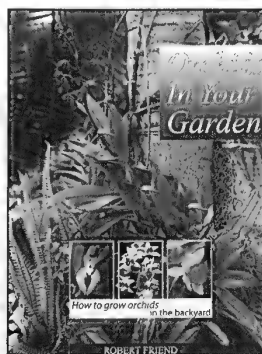
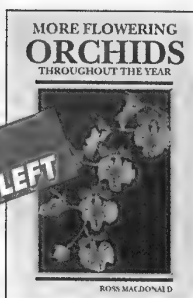
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## MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to *Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year*. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some species that would require artificial heating in winter. This volume covers a further 314 species, with 344 colour photographs. It is highly recommended to all orchid fanatics and newcomers who wish to see an array of beautiful flowers that they could grow.

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## ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN How to grow orchids in the backyard by Robert Friend

It sounds too good to be true, but orchids are as easy to grow in the backyard as a lawn or a bed of roses. Despite their exotic reputation, the everyday gardener can grow orchids without special pots or greenhouses.

The book shows you how to introduce orchids into the garden, by attaching them to trees, fixing them on rocks and walls, or planting them in garden beds. With more than 150,000 species and hybrids of orchids in the world, there are plants suitable for every garden.

Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

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**Colour and B&W.**

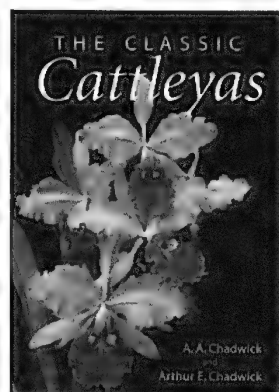
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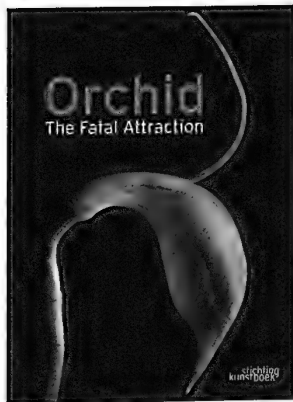
## THE CLASSIC CATTLEYAS by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick

In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the colour of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species (and cattleya-like *Laelia* species) is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. There are ten line drawings and 162 wonderful colour photographs. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.

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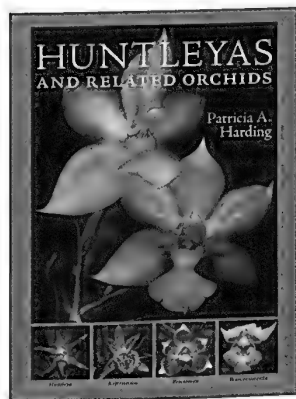
## ORCHID: THE FATAL ATTRACTION by Anne Ronse

The subject of orchids is one close to the heart of many floral designers. Some feel it's a privilege to work with these flowers and plants but often wonder how many designers actually decide to investigate the history and nature of them rather than just how to condition them. The text by Dr Anne Ronse, is informative and enthusiastic and the photography is superlative! It's so good that the flowers literally drip off the pages capturing the imagination and the heart. If you want something special, are addicted to orchids and want to luxuriate in glorious

text and images; this is the book for you.

**142 pages.**  
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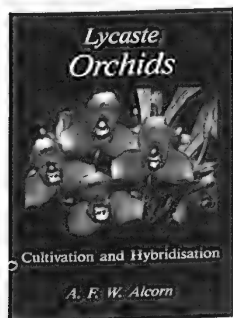
## HUNTLEYS AND RELATED ORCHIDS by Patricia A. Harding

Revered by avid orchid collectors for its delightful, star-shaped flowers, *Huntleya* is a small group of orchids found low in the forest. *Huntleya* is a small orchid genus that includes fourteen species. They occur in wet cloud forests at medium altitudes of Guatemala, Costa Rica, South America down to Bolivia. The type species *Huntleya meleagris* also occurs in Trinidad. Besides their striking colours — from deep blue to waxy red, royal purple to almost black — flowers of this group are known for their distinctive shapes, patterns, and textures. As appealing as these lovely tropical orchids are, their identification has been

confused since the first species was described in the mid-1800s. Recent DNA studies have led to a clearer understanding of relationships and, as a result of this clarity, it is now possible to sort out the taxonomic problems and identify the characteristics that set species apart. In this first book devoted to the *Huntleya* alliance, author Patricia Harding presents evidence from the scientific literature, other growers, and her own experience that will enable orchid enthusiasts everywhere to identify their plants and grow them successfully. Patricia A. Harding is an accredited American Orchid Society judge who has been growing and photographing orchids for three decades.

**260 pages, 150 colour photos. Hardcover.**

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## LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation by A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of

Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

**237 pages.**  
**Colour and B&W.**

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## GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME by James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

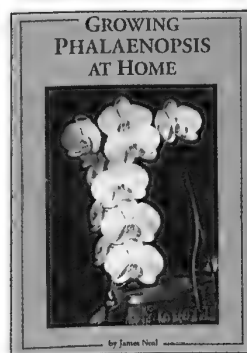
Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

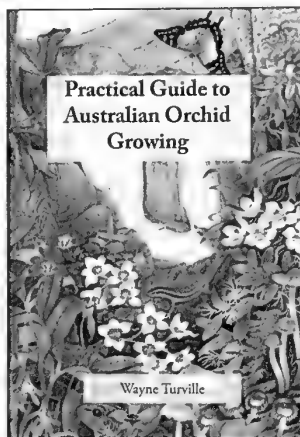
The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

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**Colour and B&W.**



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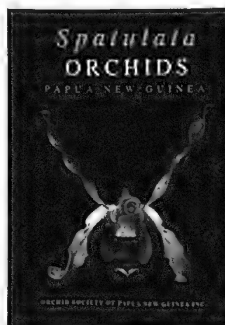
## PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ORCHID GROWING by Wayne Turville

The 64 page *Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing* was over two years in the making, being written by Wayne Turville who runs a large commercial orchid nursery in Victoria, Australia — specialising in Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. This book was written for everybody from the absolute amateur through to the hardened "orchid nut". However, due to its low cost and practical nature, this book fills a huge void in orchid literature. Simple, easy to understand language, lots of pictures, and glorious examples of the some of the finest native orchids ever photographed both in nature and at orchid shows.

The title is somewhat misleading, as the text covers major cultivation principles for ALL orchid genera, not just the Australian native *Dendrobium* species and their hybrids. Topics covered (and illustrated) include Blooms, Starting a Collection, Housing Your Orchids, Day to Day Growing, Pests and Diseases, Physical Damage, *Cymbidiums* and *Sarcocylus*, plus Bits and Pieces (information about orchid propagation, orchid societies and deflasking.). This booklet is recommended for all new orchid enthusiasts, and all who want to brush up on their cultural skills and knowledge.

**64 pages, colour.**  
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## SPATULATA ORCHIDS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA by Justin Tkatchenko and Steven Kami (featuring photographs by Rocky Roe)

This excellent A4 sized 96 page book is now out of print and we have secured the last few copies for our readers. It is not a scientific publication — but a very professional presentation — published by the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea — showcasing the variety expressed within the native *Spatulata* *Dendrobiums* of Papua New Guinea. Over 100 colour photographs illustrate more than 30 species and colour variations. It also includes a number of newly discovered and currently undescribed species. The book includes distribution maps for each species and a section on cultivation, written by the local experts in their field. A required text for those interested in *Dendrobiums*, Orchids of PNG and tropical orchids

in general. (Note: these copies are shrink-wrapped, and some pages may be stuck together. This can be rectified by either/or bending the pages or the use of a sharp knife to carefully separate the pages. This was accounted for in the reduced price.)

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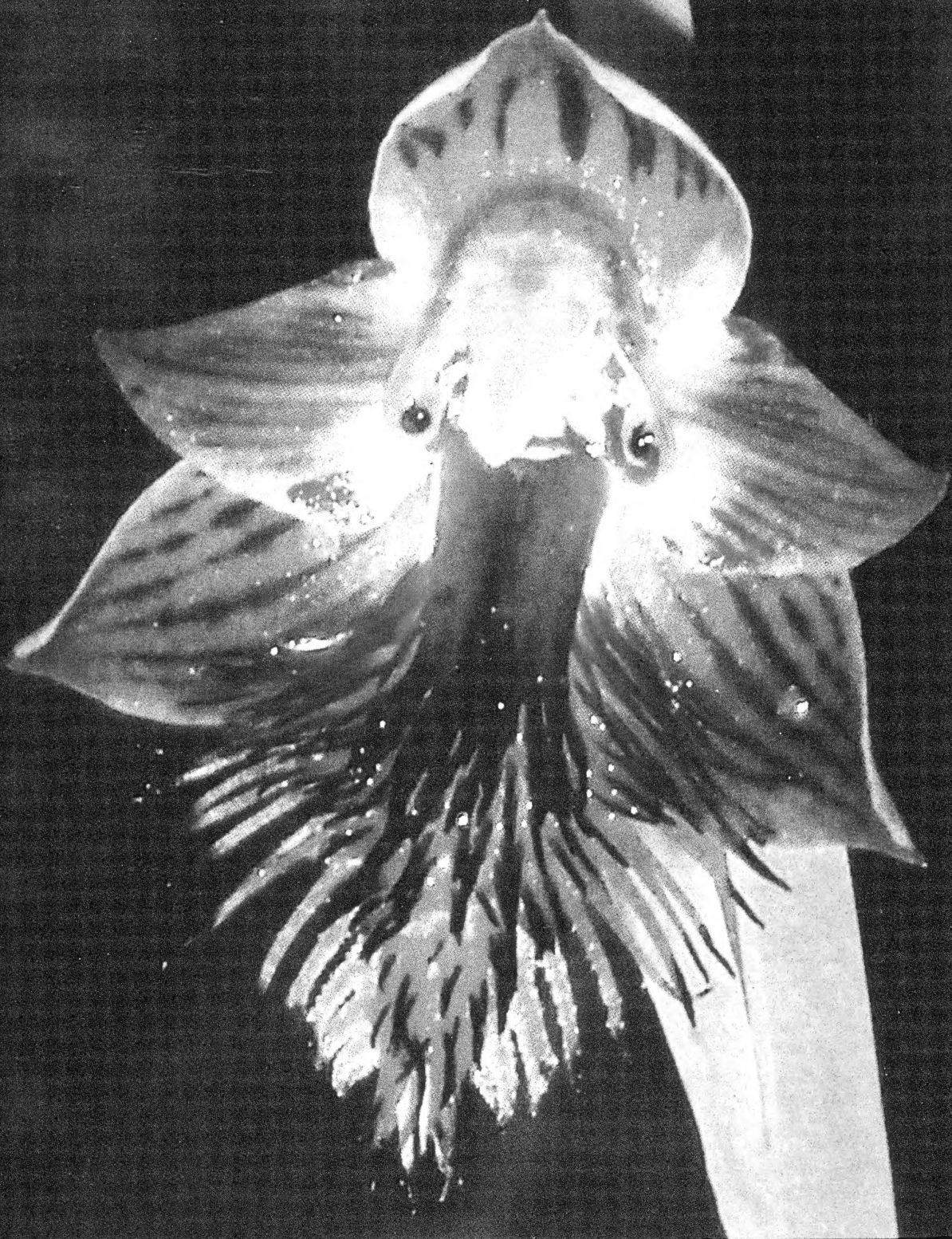
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**Above:** There are 27 recognised species of *Calochilus* – known colloquially as the Beard Orchids. *Calochilus campestris* is one of the most widespread species found along much of the Australian east coast from southern Queensland, New South Wales across to Victoria and South Australia, as well as Tasmania. It is generally found in sandy soils from 1000m altitude almost to sea level. They are closely related to the genus *Thelymitra*, the Sun Orchids. Unfortunately they are very difficult to maintain in cultivation as they are heavily dependent on mycorrhizal fungi. This specimen was photographed *in situ* at Wentworth Falls, in the Blue Mountains NSW. Photo: David Banks

# Australian Orchid Review

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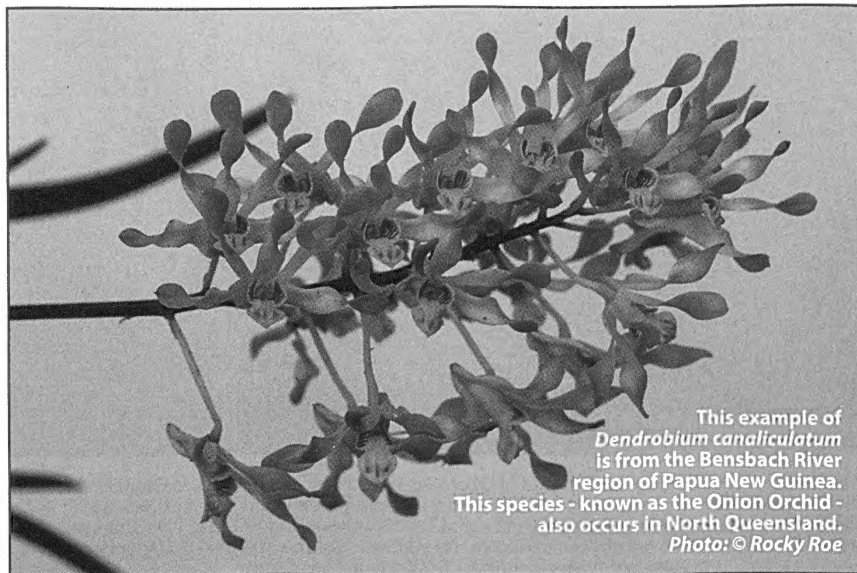
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This example of *Dendrobium canaliculatum* is from the Bensbach River region of Papua New Guinea.

This species - known as the Onion Orchid - also occurs in North Queensland.  
Photo: © Rocky Roe



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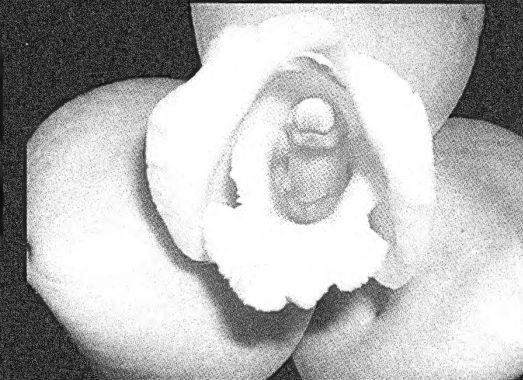


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